

February 14, 2006

New Trichomoniasis Testing Law Takes Effect

Montana Department of Livestock announces a new law that requires Trichomoniasis testing of all non-virgin bulls that are imported into Montana as well as any that are sold, loaned or leased within the state. The new rule took effect February 9, 2007 but producers and importees are being given a grace period extending to March 16th to comply with the Administrative Rule.

“The law is for the protection of the livestock industry within Montana,” said Dr. Jeanne Rankin, Acting State Veterinarian. “Trichomoniasis is a serious venereal disease of cattle characterized by fetal abortions and open cows at pregnancy checking time, that is an economic nightmare for any rancher that has had cattle exposed to Trich in the past. This rule makes positive *Trichomonas foetus* tests reportable to the State Veterinarian’s office and will help us to determine the extent of the problem within the state.”

All non-virgin bulls over 12 months and virgin bulls over 24 months will need to be tested negative 3 times at no less than one week intervals, with no breeding in between the tests and the time the bull is sold, loaned or leased. All non-virgin bulls imported into the state have the same requirements. Any positive bull must be slaughtered immediately or fed out at a feedlot and then slaughtered. Mandatory neighbor notification of positive bulls is also required. South Dakota, Wyoming and Idaho already have Trichomoniasis testing requirements for importation of bulls. Contact the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-2043 for additional information or go to www.mt.gov/liv

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